

# Media Release

## Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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**December 15, 2011**

### ***Deputy's Intuitiveness and Attention to Detail Solves Vandalism Crimes Black Canyon City***

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On December 11, 2011, at approximately 1 AM, a Yavapai County Sheriff's Office deputy identified, detained, and eventually charged 4 teenage subjects involved in a series of vandalisms in Black Canyon City. Their ages range from 14 to 16.

On December 10, 2011, the YCSO deputy was dispatched to the area of Amethyst Place and Topaz Road in Black Canyon City regarding several spray paint based vandalism incidents. The deputy saw that suspects had used white and yellow spray paint to mark roadway surfaces, mailboxes, cars, power poles, a stop sign, a storage building, and garbage cans. Most of the markings included various profane slogans and descriptions of sexual activity, along with several phallic symbols. A total of 8 incidents were documented during the initial investigation.

After reviewing the phrases, the deputy determined the words likely comprised lyrics to a song. The graffiti included cursive style lettering and punctuation. Misspelled words had been crossed out and corrected by the suspects. Based on the writing style and content, the deputy surmised the suspects were female.

The deputy spoke with several victims in the area and at least one person recalled seeing a group of female teens walking on Topaz Road prior to the vandalism. Another victim mentioned a home on Amethyst Place where two teen girls, who had recently moved to the neighborhood, now reside. The deputy went to this home, located in the 20600 block of Amethyst Place, and saw no evidence of vandalism on the property although several nearby properties had been damaged. While attempting to locate a resident, the deputy saw yellow and white spray paint cans in an open car port area. Eventually, an adult female made contact and indicated 4 teenage girls were staying with her at house. When the 4 were questioned, all denied any involvement in the criminal damage incidents.

As the deputy concluded his interviews, he noticed a piece of paper hanging on a bedroom door with lyrics similar to the lyrics used in the graffiti. The writing style also matched what had been spray painted throughout the neighborhood. With this evidence, the deputy again confronted the group of girls about their involvement and all eventually admitted responsibility. Respective parents were notified and directed to meet the deputy at the Amethyst Place home. The teens also admitted to additional graffiti not initially found by the deputy.

All 4 teens were referred to Yavapai County Juvenile Probation for prosecution involving multiple counts of Criminal Damage.